

THE BELL TOWER

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8th annual Barrio Fiesta highlighted by food, fun and music

Regina Reed
Staff Writer

The 8th annual Barrio Fiesta, held on Friday, Feb. 19, attracted a room full of students and community members for an evening of food, games and music. The evening began with a blessing over the food served,

which was a buffet of traditional Filipino cuisine. By 6:30 p.m. the line for food stretched the length of the conference room as people filled their plates.

As each person entered the fiesta, raffle tickets were handed out for the three prize drawings held throughout the evening. Prizes for the

raffle included gift cards to Subway and Starbucks, as well as chocolate bars. For those wanting to up their chances of winning, more tickets could be purchased for \$1.

Games and performances that were spaced throughout the night kept fiesta-goers laughing and entertained.

The games included a Filipino flag drawing contest, "Chubby Bunny," featuring Filipino words and a "Singing Bee." Chubby Bunny is a game where contestants place marshmallows in their mouths and repeat words or phrases. Marshmallows are continuously added until contestants can no longer speak or are

forced to spit the mallows out. The last contestant standing wins.

While the crowd enthusiastically cheered the best flag drawing to victory and urged "Chubby Bunny" participants to stuff more marshmallows in their mouths, the crowd favorite seemed to be the "Singing Bee." Volunteer singers were asked to listen to a song, and finish the following lyrics when the music stopped. The crowd sang along with the contestants to Adele, Britney Spears, The Backstreet Boys and Miley Cyrus.

see Barrio page 11



Student holds up drawing of Filipino flag.



Community members gather to celebrate.

Photos courtesy of Harrison Devine

Faith & Society: Transforming encounters

Victor Ieronymides
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, Saint Martin's University put on a Faith and Society event in the Trautman Student Union Building (TUB).

The event worked to emphasize the idea that people are not perfect, and that is why it is part of human nature to judge and criticize someone from a different culture with religious beliefs different from one's own.

Director of Campus Ministry Jonathan B. Dwyer explained that there is no better way of finding out more about a culture than listening to people who have "had experiences with other cultures that transformed and shaped who they are today."

To start off the event, Professor J.J. Lee, lecturer

of the civil engineering department, shared the difference of his Taiwanese cultural background with the American culture he has encountered, as his beliefs are based on Confucianism.

ESL professor Barbara Robertson talked about her experiences in Tanzania. Robertson first shared that although she planned only to stay a few months in Tanzania, the culture and the people fascinated her so much that she ended up staying for fourteen years. Robertson added that her initial perspective about the people of Tanzania and their Islamic beliefs could not even be compared with the perspective she established after fourteen years of learning and being fully exposed to the culture.

see Encounters page G2

Experience Northern Europe in 2017

Sabrina White
Section Editor

The study abroad office has planned a new trip in May of 2017 to Northern Europe. Co-led by Aaron Goings, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and political science, and David Price, Ph.D., professor of sociology, the trip will take place just after graduation and last about three weeks. Students will travel to Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland and the total cost should be just under \$3,500 depending on each student's personal scholarships. The cost may appear relatively high, but there are scholarships available to cover some of the expenses, like the International Experience Scholarship.

Some of the expenses have also been reduced due to Saint Martin's connections with local European

institutions, which helps to subsidize many of the costs of studying abroad. Goings added "While that seems like a hefty cost, it should be noted that we're going to the most expensive region in the world and yet we still have been able to hold costs under \$3,500."

Goings also mentioned that he and Price have connections to local institutions, and have personal knowledge on how to reduce costs. Goings lived in Finland for a year and taught at the University of Jyväskylä. He participated in research while teaching, and has a plethora of local knowledge about the area. Price has also been invited to speak at Swedish and Norwegian scientific associations.

Goings and Price led a similar trip to Northern Europe in 2015.

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The adviser is a journalist, educator, and manager who is, above all, a role moel. The adviser’s ultimate goal is to mold, preserve and protect an ethical and educational environment, not to monitor the final content of the student newspaper.

Editor’s note: Our Multipurpose Paper

Hey All,

I hope the semester is finding you well. Feel free to pick up this issue of The Belltower, take it with you wherever you’re headed and peruse it at your leisure. Stick it in your backpack next to the hoodie, pull it out at a café, pretend you’ve subscribed to some elitist news rag and wait for the compliments. You don’t even have to read it! Just open the paper, pretend you’re deep in thought and squint until that special guy, lady, or whoever notices and comes over to ask about it.

In this issue, you’ll find some anecdotes from our writers abroad, coverage of homecoming, an op-ed on a corrupt pastor (written by yours truly), presidential candidate updates, an article by a monk, a glowing review of Meconi’s (well-deserved in my opinion) and some other tomfoolery.

With the busy semester in “full swing,” whatever that means, take some time out to enjoy a relaxing reading “sesh” (short for session). I also want to use this space to give an extra plug for belltowersmusubmissions@gmail.com. Send any and all creative flash fiction/nonfiction (500 words maximum) to the email I just mentioned and the staff here will review it and potentially make room for it in our next issue. Nothing too graphic or malicious will be printed, but those with genuine and unique stories to tell will be considered for publication.

All that said, I really hope everyone’s semester is going swimmingly. Be sure to get that much-needed rest as midterms are just around the corner. And thanks for reading!



Truly yours,

Travis Munday
Managing Editor

Our Mission

As fellow students at Saint Martin’s Univeristy, our staff is constantly working to keep you up-to-date on what is going on around campus, our community and throughout the world. Our newspaper will provide information that is valuable to our campus and especially to students at SMU. We will never back down form taking on any issue at our school and promise to give our best efforts to keep the community informed.

Are you interested in writing for The Belltower?

We are accepting articles from student freelance writers. If you see something newsworthy, turn it into a story. If we print it, you will be paid for it.

For questions, comments, applications, submissions, or suggestions, send an email to belltower@stmartin.edu, Or drop a note under the door of the newsroom, HH 200

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Have an opinion about something you would like to write about? Consider sending an article to The Belltower. If you or someone you know would like to be a guest writer, submit articles to belltower@stmartin.edu for consideration.

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1/2 of page	\$85	\$76.50	+105
1 page	\$160	\$146.00	+205

** The semester discount is valid only if the purchaser agrees to buy an ad space in the majority of the issues released during the semester.*

South America in crisis as Zika virus spreads

Denver Garcia
Staff Writer

In April 2015, Brazil experienced the beginning of an outbreak of Zika infections, a virus spread by mosquitos. Zika gets its name from the jungle in Uganda where it was first identified in 1947. Originating in Africa, the virus spread to other tropical regions. Over the years there have been many outbreaks of Zika, most recently in Yap and French Polynesia in 2007. Most people who are bitten by Zika-infected mosquitos experience no symptoms, but roughly 20 percent of victims suffer a severe fever lasting roughly one week. This January, the previously ignored virus received a large amount of exposure as infections reached pandemic levels in South America. Many women believe it caused microcephaly in newborns, as well as other birth defects. While the outbreak is largely limited to South America, there has been at least one confirmed case in the U.S. and many people are afraid it could become a problem.

"There's no possible way that we (Washington State) would be affected. First of all there are no mosquitos around during this time of year

and areas that have risk of infection are the Southern states. There is nothing Saint Martin's needs to do to prevent it coming to campus other than to alert people who are traveling to affected areas, which is what the Center for Disease Control

The World Health Organization announced a health emergency and has warned pregnant women against traveling to affected regions. While no definitive link has been established between the Zika outbreak and the spike in microcephaly

causing severe pain. The Brazilian government has announced it will mobilize 220,000 soldiers to distribute educational pamphlets about the outbreak.

According to the CDC, common symptoms of Zika infection include rash, headache, fever and red-tened eyes. In order to avoid infection, the CDC recommends wearing long sleeves and pants, wearing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved brand of bug spray and sleeping with a mosquito net. No vaccine or specific remedy has been developed for Zika, but symptoms can be lessened by getting plenty of sleep, drinking ample fluids to avoid dehydration and taking acetaminophen. Infected individuals should avoid aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. An immunization for Zika is currently in the works, but it likely will not be completed and approved for several years.

For additional information go to the following webpages:

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/zika/en/>



Map showing areas affected by Zika virus.

(CDC) is doing with its travel notice on their website. I would say if you want to stay healthy this semester then get your flu shot, because the flu is going to kill more people than the Zika virus," says Louise Kaplan, associate professor of nursing.

births, there have been enough coinciding incidents for there to be concern. There is also evidence that Zika may be linked to Guillen-Barre Syndrome, an acquired disorder in which the victim's immune system attacks the nervous system,

Elections heat up as polls turn to votes

Roslyn Buff
Section Editor

The 2016 presidential election has been at the forefront of all political coverage since the nominees for president started announcing their candidacy back in 2015. On Feb. 1, the Iowa Caucuses allowed voters their first chance to tell the country who they wanted as their party's nominee.

Sen. Ted Cruz won the Republican caucus vote, with 27.6 percent and eight delegates. Coming in second place was Donald Trump, with 24.3 percent of the votes and eight delegates as well. Sen. Marco Rubio finished third with 23.1 percent and seven delegates¹.

Jason Noble, a reporter for the Des Moines Register, announced via Twitter that Cruz had set a record for most Iowa caucus votes received by a single candidate.

Cruz was reported as saying, "Tonight is a victory for courageous conservatives across Iowa and all across this great nation."²

Although Sen. Rubio finished third, his campaign seemed happy with the outcome.

"So this is the moment they said would never happen. For months, for months, they told us we had no chance. For months they told us because we offer too much optimism in a time of anger, we had no chance. For months they told us because we didn't have the right endorsements or the right political connections, we had no chance," Sen. Rubio told his supporters.³

His performance in the GOP Iowa Debate on Jan. 28 seemed to help Rubio's numbers in Iowa.

The results of the Democratic caucus were not nearly as clear cut. Sen. Bernie Sanders and Secretary Hillary Clinton were caught

in a neck and neck tie for most of the night and a winner was not announced until just before 1 pm on Feb. 2. Clinton was declared the winner, with 49.9 percent of votes and 23 delegates. Sen. Sanders trailed behind her only marginally, with 49.6 percent of voters and 21 delegates.⁴

Although Clinton was happy with her victory, the CNN political website mentioned that "the slim margin of victory means Clinton failed to establish herself as the Democrats' clear standard-bearer in the first contest of 2016. While it once appeared that Clinton might wrap up the nomination quickly, the caucus results suggest the primary battle will be a hard-fought referendum on what the Democratic Party should be."

The New Hampshire primaries showed just how tough of a fight this may be for Clinton, as Sanders secured 60 percent of the vote. Secretary Clinton won only 38 percent.⁵

The New York Times reported that "The win for Mr. Sanders amounted to a powerful and painful rejection of Hillary Clinton, who has a deep history with New Hampshire voters and offered policy ideas that seemed to reflect the flinty,

moderate politics of the state."

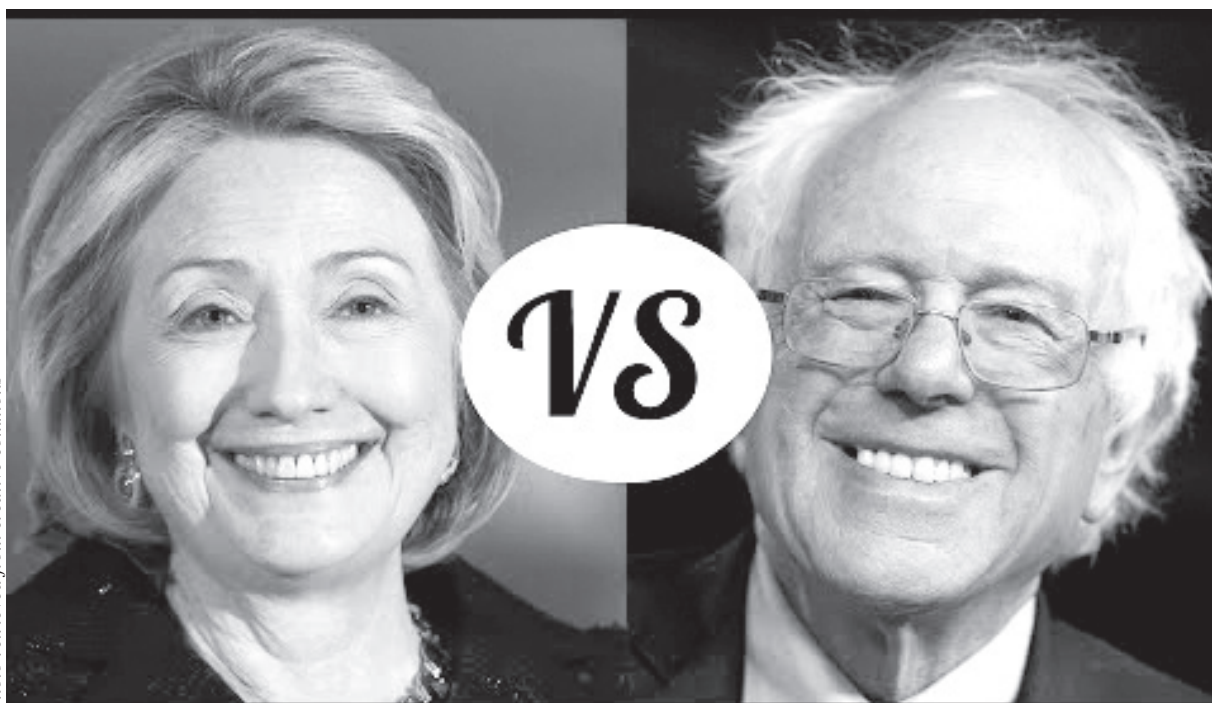
The New Hampshire primaries were good to "outsider" candidates on both sides, as Trump won the GOP primary with 35 percent of the votes. Trump appears to be polling well with Republicans who are fearful for the state of their nation. The New York Times reported that he "ran strongest among voters who were worried about illegal immigrants, incipient economic turmoil and the threat of a terrorist attack in the United States."

Trump was followed in second place by Sen. John Kasich who secured 16 percent of the vote. Sen. Rubio, who had seemed hopeful after the Iowa Caucus, fell flat in the New Hampshire primary, only receiving 11 percent of the vote. His weak performance in the Feb. 6 debate this time cost him the votes, according to CNN.

The Nevada Democratic caucus on Feb. 20 saw Clinton secure 52.4 percent of the vote, beating Sanders who only received 47.4 percent.⁶ Trump won the South Carolina Republican primary with 32.5 percent of the vote on the same day.⁷

Sources

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Secretary Clinton defeated Sen. Sanders in Nevada.

World news at a glance

Denver Garcia
Staff Writer

A monumental meeting of two religious leaders



Patriarch Kirill of Russia

This month, Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill signed an Ecumenical Declaration, the first agreement since the Great Schism of 1054 which divided the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. The heads of the two churches met in the VIP Room at the José Martí International Airport in Havana, Cuba and discussed how to address the growing persecution of Christians in the Middle East. Cuba was chosen as the location for the meeting because it is far from Rome and Moscow, making it neutral ground. Together they issued a 30 point agreement to overcome the nearly millennium long rivalry between the two sects and established a set of common goals to achieve together. The meeting has not been without controversy, because of Patriarch Kirill's relationship with President Putin. Past popes have met with patriarchs from other churches, but never a patriarch from Russia. For Pope Francis, this is part of a larger effort to increase ecumenical dialogues with other denominations.

Earthquake strikes New Zealand

A 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck the city of Christchurch, New Zealand on Feb. 13. While concerns were severe enough for some people to evacuate, no damage has been reported other than broken merchandise that fell off store shelves. Several people have been hospitalized due to injuries from the quake, but no casualties have been confirmed. Like the American West Coast, New Zealand is located in the notorious Ring of Fire, making it prone to severe earthquakes.



Satellite view of New Zealand

Royal baby born in Bhutan



King and Queen of Bhutan

Queen Gyalysuen Jetsun Pema of Bhutan gave birth to a baby boy on Feb. 5. His royal highness was born at Lingkana Palace in the Bhutanese capital of Thimphu, and is the first child of the Queen and Dragon King Jigme Kesar Namgyel Wangchuck. The royal birth was surrounded with much pomp and circumstance as the new prince was given a variety of blessings by Buddhist monks of several different orders. Bhutan is a constitutional monarchy located in the Himalayas. Until recently, it was one of the most remote countries on Earth. Since 2006 the ruling Dragon King has made efforts to modernize Bhutan while keeping its Buddhist heritage intact, which has resulted in replacing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with Gross Domestic Happiness (GDH).

Deadly riot takes place in Mexico

Members of Los Zetas Cartel incited a deadly riot in Topo Chico Prison in Nuevo Leon, Mexico. An internal dispute between members over who led the cartel faction is believed to have started the riot. The incident lasted for nearly 45 minutes before it was quelled by the arrival of troops from the Mexican Army. 49 casualties have been reported. Five victims were unidentifiable due to severe mutilations. Most of the killings were executed with hammers and makeshift knives. The one gunshot casualty was carried out by a guard protecting female inmates. Los Zetas originated as the paramilitary wing of the Gulf Cartel, with the first members being Mexican Special Forces troops who defected after being lured by better pay. After splitting from the Gulf Cartel, the Zetas have become notorious for the gruesome murders of their rivals. The Topo Chico riot is the deadliest recorded prison riot in Mexican history.



Reinforcements arrive to address the riot.

LGBT bill opposed in Rome



Saint Peter's square

On Jan. 30, several thousand Italians gathered in Rome's Circus Maximus to protest against LGBT rights legislation currently in the works. The proposed bill would recognize same sex civil unions (but not marriage), and would grant registered civil unions limited adoption rights. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has been passionate about the bill and is hoping to pass it. The bill has been met with fierce opposition from Italy's devout Catholics. Italy is the only country in Western Europe which has not passed any form of LGBT rights legislation, causing complaints from the European Court of Justice. Catholic clergy and laypeople believe that passing the bill will undermine traditional family values. Pope Francis has weighed in on the matter, opposing the bill on grounds that "same sex unions are not part of God's plan."

Flint water jeopardizes citizens' health

Travis Munday
Managing Editor

In April of 2014, the city of Flint, Mich. switched their main water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River in order to save money while a new pipeline to the lake was constructed. Soon after the change, complaints about the water quality began piling up in state offices.

People using water in the city since that time have all been exposed to lead. Children specifically are bearing the brunt of lead's toxic effects, experiencing neurological and developmental damage as a result of the prolonged exposure.

Mike Glasgow, Flint's laboratory and water quality supervisor, shared his concerns with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality official Mike Prysby via e-mail eight days before the city switched to Flint River water.

"I do not anticipate giving the OK to begin sending water out any time soon. If water is distributed from this plant in the next couple of weeks, it will be against my direction. I need time to adequately train additional staff and to update our monitoring plans before I will feel we are ready," he said.

City officials bypassed this request and began using Flint River water

on April 25, as planned.

Local government inaction in Flint has led to this poison affecting its citizens. The effects became more tangible as a localized outbreak of Legionnaires Disease was investi-

Department has attempted to obtain specific information regarding the Flint water distribution system from your office since November 2014. Your office has not provided a return phone call or response to

put in Flint's State Office Building so employees wouldn't have to drink from the taps, according to state government e-mails released by the liberal group Progress Michigan."

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of emergency regarding the crisis in January of 2016, over a year and a half after the toxic substance was introduced to Flint residents' water.

Michael Moore, documentarian and activist, captured the sentiment felt by the people of Flint in a statement caught by USA Today cameras, "The water infrastructure of this city has been destroyed. It has been destroyed by the governor of this state."

Unregulated Flint River water, grossly unmonitored for its corrosive properties, continues to have residual effects on the city's population, even though Flint switched back to Detroit Water and Sewage, its original source of clean water. On Jan. 16, 2016, President Obama declared a federal state of emergency in Flint. So far, five million dollars in federal aid have been directed to the crisis. It remains to be seen what effects Flint's water crisis will have long-term.



Photo retrieved from creative commons

Residents of Flint, Mich. utilize bottled water for their daily needs.

gated in February of 2015. James Henry, a Genesee county environmental health supervisor in the midst of this investigation, voiced his concerns in an email to Howard Croft, the director of Flint's Department of Public Works at that time.

"The Genesee County Health

emails," he said.

Croft no longer holds that office.

According to the Detroit Free Press, "In January of 2015, when state officials were telling worried Flint residents their water was safe to drink, they also were arranging for coolers of purified water to be

Medical marijuana: Public policy based on emotion

Cleo Pineda
Staff Writer

When Washington state voters approved Initiative 692 (I-692) which permitted the use of marijuana for medical purposes in 1998, they did so with the objective to provide therapy for people with terminal or debilitating health conditions.

"This was the vote of the people—an initiative on the ballot that made medical marijuana legal. Af-

"I think it is a bad way to do public policy—acting on emotions rather than evidence," said Kaplan. "Another concern about a lack of evidence is a public health concern. We typically want to protect people from harm. We have the Zika virus that everyone is worried about because there is a suspected link between the virus and microcephaly as well as other deformities in infants that is not yet proven," Kaplan continued.

"Health policy officials have been taking the stance that we have to stop this epidemic right now even if we aren't certain about the evidence. With marijuana, we're saying, 'Go ahead and use it. We'll see if we can figure out whether or not we should worry about it.'"

interest about medical marijuana policy. She has spoken statewide and nationally and published a journal article about state and federal medical marijuana laws. She is teaching a course this semester on medical marijuana in which she aims to promote critical thinking about the evidence and contemporary issues that surround medical marijuana use.

"The way I designed the course is to give students a broad overview of the medical marijuana law and policies and how it interfaces with recreational marijuana. The two systems are being merged to provide much needed regulation for medical marijuana use. Students are reading and critiquing research studies on marijuana and a Washington qualifying condition."

Kaplan continued, "I want to

assure they look at why we don't use anecdotal evidence to support a statement and steer them to high level of evidence."

Kaplan shares her thoughts on the risk of engaging in this new social experiment.

"You will hear a lot of people say to you, 'It used to be legal—it's been used for thousands of years,' and that is true. You know cocaine used to be legal, right? Opium used to be legal. But that doesn't mean that it's a good thing. When people say, 'It's a plant. It's natural,' arsenic is natural, however you wouldn't want it in your food, would you?"

Kaplan seeks to emphasize the relevance of evaluating solid facts before using drugs that potentially have adverse outcomes.



Photo courtesy of creative commons

Medical marijuana was legalized in Washington state in 1998.

ter California in 1996, Washington and Oregon passed measures in 1998 making Washington second at a time when there was not a lot of evidence. However, it was really promoted for compassionate use. If you look at the other medical marijuana state laws, you see most have been passed with the same intent," said Louise Kaplan, Saint Martin's University professor and nursing program administrator.

While the 1998 initiative's intent was for compassionate use for patients with terminal and debilitating conditions, the state included many conditions for which there is little to no scientific data as to whether marijuana is actually therapeutic.

But we do know about some adverse effects. There is good evidence marijuana affects the developing brain of users under age 25 years. The question is if we are really giving people enough information to make the decision if we're not fully disclosing what we do know and what we don't know," she added.

Kaplan was asked to review discipline cases brought forward to her by the Washington State Nursing Commission, where she concluded that in almost every case where the nurse practitioners were charged with not complying with the legal standard when authorizing marijuana, the letter of the law was not being followed. This piqued her

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Beyoncé’s halftime performance at the Super Bowl creates controversy

Lucas Shannon
Section Editor

Beyoncé’s performance during halftime of Super Bowl 50 created quite a bit of disputation. Her stylist, Marni Senofonte, said that the star’s performance of her new single “Formation” was partially a tribute to the women of the Black Panthers party, according to New England Sports Network.

Former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani was one of the most outspoken critics of the performance and the tribute. When asked by Fox and Friends co-host Anna Kooiman he said, “I think it’s outrageous.” He continued, “This is football, not Hollywood. And I thought it was outrageous that she used it as a platform to attack police officers, who are the people who protect her and protect us and keep us alive.”

The artist looks to kick off her “Formation” world tour in Miami, but is now facing resistance from the local police department. Fraternal Order of Police President Javier Ortiz believes that the performance showed an allegiance to the Black Panthers Party and a lack of support for police officers, according to Jessica Lipscomb of the Miami News Times.

Ortiz, in a press release, said “The Miami Fraternal Order of Police has voted to have all law enforcement officers boycott Beyoncé’s concert which is being held at the Miami Marlins Stadium on Wednesday,

April 26, 2016. The fact that Beyoncé used this year’s Super Bowl to divide Americans by promoting the Black Panthers and her anti-police message shows how she does not support law enforcement.”

concert-goers safe.

Ed Mullins, the President of New York’s Sergeants Benevolent Association, a New York Police union, says he is supportive of the Miami police union’s boycott and is consid-

“Law enforcement across the country has to make a statement that we’re not bad guys and she’s got to stop portraying us as bad guys,” Mullins said.

Similarly, an anti-Beyoncé protest was planned for Feb. 15 and was to be held outside of the National Football League Headquarters in New York. However, not a single protestor showed up for the first hour of the protest according to the Guardian’s Amber Jamieson. Jamieson notes that there were roughly 30 pro-Beyoncé and Black Lives Matter supporters outside of the league offices, who waited and held signs that were supportive of the singer and her message. One of the signs read “Get information” (lyrics from Beyoncé’s Formation “get information/get in formation”). Another read, “Pro black doesn’t mean anti-white,” according to Jamieson.

Eventually a few anti-Beyoncé protestors showed up to protest the singer’s performance. One such protestor, Ariel Kohane, was expecting to meet thousands of like-minded protestors, according to Jamieson.

Kohane, a supporter of the Blue Lives Matter, a pro-police group, said “I’m here to protest Beyoncé’s ideology and that she should be more constructive and she should be trying to create peace and harmony instead of divisiveness.”



Beyoncé’s backup dancers

Similarly, in Tampa, where Beyoncé is scheduled to have a concert two days after her performance in Miami, not a single police officer has signed up to work the concert, according to Lipscomb. However, Lipscomb reports that the Tampa Police department will have the concert staffed, in order to keep

ering encouraging New York police officers to do the same, according to Adam Lidgett of the International Business Times. However, Mullins says he wants to meet Beyoncé and talk to her in person to encourage her to stop using what he calls, “anti-police rhetoric,” according to Lidgett.

Young people fail to cast ballots

Connie Jensen
Staff Writer

It is that time of year again when campaign efforts are in full swing. As delegates work to cast votes for the highly coveted presidential candidate position, the American people again find themselves immersed in the political conversation. It seems everyone has an opinion on who they think should be the next president of the United States and why.

Despite all the hype, millions of Americans will fail to cast their vote in the upcoming election.

The reason for this lack of voter turnout cannot easily be answered. One thing is clear: Americans ages 18 to 34 are the least likely to vote. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, voters aged 18 to 34

make up one of the largest voting demographics, yet consistently have the lowest voter turnout.

Since 1978, “voting rates for 18 to 34-year-olds have trailed those for older Americans in every congressional election, although the size of those differences has fluctuated depending on the year,” according to the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau also reports that in 2014, out of 64,400 registered voters ages 18 to 34, only 14,945 voted. However out of 44,125 registered voters ages 65 and older, 26,210 voted. Only 23.1 percent of 18 to 34-year-olds voted, while 59.4 percent of those 65 and older voted.

With such a large portion of an entire demographic failing to vote, it is easy to see how an election could be swayed should that demographic

the percentage gap by using celebrities as a platform to encourage young people to vote. While these outreach methods seem promising on paper, such attempts have been largely unsuccessful.

Since Rock the Vote’s beginning in 1990, the overall turnout rate for voters 18 to 34 has ultimately decreased, a trend that has continued since 1982, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In recent presidential election years, voter turnout rates decreased. In 2008, the rates decreased to 23.8 percent, compared to 24.4 percent in 2004. The rates dropped again to 22.8 percent in 2014. This downward trend is even more pronounced in congressional levels. This is seen in previous election years, where there has been no significant increases since 1982.

In an effort to explain why so many young Americans fail to vote annually, Pennsylvania State University’s Eric Pultzer, a political scientist explains, “When young people move into an apartment, they make sure they have electricity, phone and internet service and cable. Registering to vote isn’t at the top of their to-do list.”

According to his research, after a person has made an initial vote, they usually will become what he calls a habitual voter.

Pultzer explains, “Get them to the polls once, and they will likely vote again and again.”



Voters at the polls



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The Capital Food and Wine Festival is changing it up

Taylor Gersch
Staff Writer

The annual Capital Food and Wine Festival will take place March 19 from noon to 9 p.m. Local businesses, community members and event planner Kenzie Long are all working hard on preparations for the event. The Capital Food and Wine Festival is a community celebration that benefits the Saint Martin's Alumni Association by providing donations for student scholarships.

The festival not only brings many businesses to the Marcus Pavilion and Norman Worthington Conference Center, but also incorporates students so they can truly appreciate where their scholarship money is coming from. Kenzie Long explains that their biggest goal is to contribute to Saint Martin's students as much as possible.

"We want to exceed our past scholarship donations, while also making sure our patrons have an amazing, memorable experience at the festival. Personally, my goals for this year's event is to find more efficient processes, give students more opportunities to help us with the festival, and gain insight on how we can continue to improve the festival in the years to come," said Long.

There are many changes to the festival this year, including an increase in student involvement.

Long went on to say, "We are excited to be utilizing students in an MBA class focused on improving processes, regarding different elements of the festival, such as entry management and volunteer experience. We are working with Dr. Riley Moore (associate professor of economics) to look at the economic impact of the festival on the community, and we also have many students holding different committee roles."

"We have a new website, and we updated our Facebook page," Long continued. "We are implementing a marketing plan that has more of an online presence than ever before. We are getting more involved with social media and we are using an online ticketing system that has extensive tracking abilities, so our data from this year's event will be more valuable and detailed than in previous years."

Assistant professor of Business Wendy Fraser, Ph.D., is teaming up with Long to have her operations management students use current

business methods to improve important functions of the festival.

"While the Capital Food and Wine Festival is destined to yield better results for the volunteer sign-up process and quicker entry into the festival during peak times, the students are gaining real-world, valuable experience and the opportunity to earn their Green Belt certification in Lean Six Sigma which is a highly sought-after credential," said Fraser.

Students and families are encouraged to attend as well.

Stacey Gracen, marketing director for the festival, said, "This is a huge event for our region bringing

together a diverse selection of Washington wineries (around 140 wines to choose from), dozens of regional brews, fresh, local restaurant fare, live music, and the popular O'Blarney's Sports Bar tent with big screen TVs. There's no better place on a winter's day for students, their families and friends, than right here on campus at the festival!"

If you're a student or community member wanting to get involved, visit the festival's website at www.capitalfoodandwinefestival.com.



The Capital Food and Wine Festival was established in 1989.

New officers installed for the Knights of Columbus Council

Michael Overfield
Staff Writer

On Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m., new Knights of Columbus officers gathered in Cebula Hall to be installed in their positions. This new group included students, faculty, alumni and people from the community, each assuming their own positions and responsibilities. As part of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic organization emphasizing charity, these officers will form a council under Darren Johnson, district deputy of councils in the area and ultimately under the Supreme Council, which governs the order.

The ceremony began with a blessing from Fr. Peter Tynan, O.S.B., who was to be installed as Chaplain.

The Chaplain is responsible for advising the council in spiritual matters. The Grand Knight is called upon to appoint a priest to this position according to certain guidelines.

"Your role as council Chaplain is indispensable to the Catholic character of our order," said Johnson just before installing Tynan.

Saint Martin's University student Corbin Chamber was installed as Grand Knight. This position is similar to that of a president of a council. The Grand Knight is responsible for his council's well-being—he oversees meetings, is responsible for sending reports to higher councils and is the highest ranking officer in his council.

Following the installation of the Grand Knight, sophomore Walther Hoffman was installed as the Deputy Grand Knight. When the Grand Knight is not present, the Deputy

Grand Knight steps in and takes his place.

Levi Schiller, sophomore, was installed as Chancellor. His duties include keeping members interested in the council and overseeing

Michael Uribe, was called next. As the treasurer, he will manage the council's money and keep records of deposits and expenses. Additionally, he will keep the Grand Knight informed of the council's financial

council and prepare it for council meetings and ceremonies.

Carthney Laukon and Daniel Coifed were installed as inside and outside guards. They will be responsible for admitting members and visitors and checking membership cards.

The Board of Trustees consists of Matt Nguyen, Terry Monaghan and Lowell. They are responsible for overseeing the work of the treasurer and financial secretary and are a part of the retention committee.

Additionally, the financial secretary who is appointed by the Supreme Knight would manage the membership and financial records. He would send financial information to the Supreme Council. John Zyrowski, a member of the community, will serve as this council's financial secretary and, as David Lowell, Ph.D., dean of the college of engineering put it, "make the Grand Knight's job much easier."

Following the installation, each newly installed officer made a promise to obey the rules of the order and devote the necessary time to perform their tasks and promote the wellbeing of their council as best they can. With that, the ceremony ended with a prayer led by the council Chaplain.

Lowell, and founder of the Knights of Columbus, believes motivation for people to join the Knights of Columbus comes from "a desire to be of service and a desire to reinforce their Catholic identity."

status.

Derek Schlaht, senior, was installed as the Advocate and was charged with becoming familiar with the laws of the council and the order and how to conduct meetings.

The new Warden for the council, Matt Lowell, was also installed to his position during the ceremony. He will manage the property of the



Knights of Columbus' coat of arms

the council when neither the Grand Knight nor the Deputy Grand Knight are present.

The position of Recorder was filled by Amin A. Arreola. He will be responsible for keeping records of the council meetings and actions by writing it down in a recorder's minute book.

The new council Treasurer,

Photo retrieved from creative commons

A Trip to TrackTown

Andrew Walter
Staff Writer

My status on the track team as a freshman sometimes makes me wonder if I will be competing week-to-week. Sometimes the meet is so exclusive that only three or four athletes are able to attend. That is what I had imagined happening on Friday, Feb. 5, when it came to the High Performance Meet in Portland, Ore. I knew a few things about the meet that made me think I would not be going. First, the meet was on a brand new, 200 meter-banked track that they will be using for both the National and World Indoor Championships in Portland later in March. Second, were Olympian Track Athletes competing. Lastly was the name: High Performance Meet. I perform at a high level, but I am no Olympian. Needless to say, I was thrilled when coach Brewer sent me the message that I would be competing at the meet.

We were able to finish the whole day of classes, because the meet did not start until 5:30 p.m. Since the meet was so late, it meant that I would be running at 10:30 p.m. We left the school at 1:30 p.m., and bused down to Portland in two hours.

When the World Indoor

Championships take place this March, they will be in the Oregon Convention Center. For now, the track is being kept in a Portland warehouse and is known as the Nike House of Track. Pulling up to the building, we were not feeling excited. They weren't kidding when they said that it was just a warehouse. Then, we went through the front door.

I wasn't sure what I had walked into but it was like a living advertisement for Nike. Being the branding and marketing nerd that I am, I loved it. The building was dimly lit, aside from the track, where the green tread seemed to glow as bright as the looks on our faces. We claimed a spot on the bleachers and our coach gave us our race bibs. For the first time for many of us, numbers were replaced by our names—just like they are for Olympic athletes. We got on the track for a few warmup laps and it was crazy thinking that every famous track athlete would be running on this same track, and that some would be on it that night. After my warm up, I had to wait six hours before I got to run so I cheered on my teammates and then I saw the first Olympian arrive.

Fellow social squad member and first-name sharer Andrew Kier was also at the meet. He walked over to me and said something to the affect of, "I just held the door for Allyson Felix and she said thank you and I'm freaking out!"

Felix has four Olympic gold medals and another nine from

World Championships. Three of us collectively gained the courage to talk to her and we were all surprised by how approachable and kind she was to us.

I was also able to meet Trevor Dunbar, a runner from Kodiak, Alaska who had just graduated from the University of Oregon and is now running professionally for Nike. It was nice being able to meet someone from Alaska who is on his way to making it in the track world.

Finally, I met one of my favorite Olympian track athletes, Andrew Wheating. He was also extremely approachable and I was able to have a really fun conversation with him. He was running the individual 800 an hour later, and I was running the 800 in my relay later that night, so I asked him for a bit of advice to think about when my turn came up.

The meet was well attended, and they set a capacity limit of 1600 people as a result. Many of the athletes, including us Saints, had to move to the floor with our gear to make room for the other spectators in the bleachers. Still, many didn't have a seat and stood along the outside of the track to watch.

I could tell that these spectators truly loved track and field. Their energy and excitement spread through the rest of the crowd and into the competitors. That energy topped the list of things that made this meet special. Along with the brand new track, the Nike influence, the higher performance competition, and of course the Olympians and other professional athletes, I felt a bond with everyone in attendance through the energy in the building.

We had a really successful meet on the track. Full results are on the track and field section of the SMU Athletics website, but to highlight a few moments: Shannon Porter had



Andrew Walter meets fellow Alaskan runner Trevor Dunbar

another amazing meet, winning her heat in the 3K by 15 seconds and breaking her own school record; Latrelle Swayne advanced to the finals in the 60m dash and placed fourth; and Karen Horvath had a strong showing in the 1500, placing seventh.

To close out the meet, my distance medley relay (DMR) team placed first with a team of three freshmen and one sophomore. It was a nice confidence boost for all of us to come away from that meet with a group victory. We took in the moment before we boarded our vans to head back to SMU.

It was a very different meet and unlike any that I had been to before. I'm thrilled that I met my first Olympians and I hope that I haven't met my last. I think that it gave the team some positive energy before heading into the GNAC Championships, Feb. 19-20, in Nampa, Id.



SMU Distance Medley Relay Team poses after victory.

Photos courtesy of Andrew Walter

International student spotlight: Fahad Busbait

Dimin Wen
Staff Writer

Fahad Busbait is a sophomore student from Saudi Arabia who is studying mechanical engineering at Saint Martin's University. He came to the U.S. in January of 2014.

When asked why he wanted to leave his country, Busbait said, "Actually, there is a sad story behind this. I was a professional soccer player. I hurt my knees really bad once and I decided to travel somewhere out of my country to forget soccer and focus on my studies. Soccer is everywhere in my home and I can not bear it. The good thing is soccer is not as popular as football in the U.S."

Busbait described how he was scared to come to America at first because he did not know anyone.

"That was my first time coming to United States even though I had already been in Vancouver for one year and a half. And I did not know English before I went to Vancouver in Canada," explained Busbait.

"My first feeling was I might be in danger because I knew guns were legalized here and something bad did happen before. After I settled down for a while and met new friends, I got to know more about here, then I did not feel the same way as before," he continued.

Busbait found that one of the major differences between his home and America has been the weather.

"In my hometown, it would be sunny and hot all year; we do not even have winter in Saudi. The biggest difference is the nature. It is wet most of the year in

Washington. But I love it because I lived most of my life in extremely hot weather which could be up to 115 Fahrenheit at noon. Some people get angry easily

at noon in summer and no one wants to be outside. That's why I love it here. I like the weather a lot. It is so much easier to walk outside in the rain," Busbait explained.

He laughed, knowing the rain in Washington means a lot to Washingtonians. And it means a lot to Busbait too. He enjoys the rain and the smell of the green land and nature instead of the smell of sand storms.

Busbait mentioned that although Saudi Arabian culture is still very important to him, the culture of

America has allowed him to meet new people and have experiences that he never could have had at home.

"Maybe 99.99 percent of our people are Muslim. I was born Muslim. So I still have to follow all the rules such as pray five times everyday. It changed nothing about that. It is the same like before. Also the interesting thing here was I started talking to girls since I have been here. Because in Saudi, boys do not talk to girls until they are ready to get married. Segregation is very important in Saudi. I was shy to talk to girls at the beginning. Of course I got used to it soon, then everything changed and I feel good enough to talk to girls now. It is not a problem anymore," he said.

Busbait has enjoyed life in America.

"I miss home a lot, but I am still going to enjoy my time here. Life is so different here. I still have two more years to go and after that I will go back home," he said.



Photo courtesy of Fahad Busbait

This is Fahad's second year in the U.S.

Gluten or no gluten, Meconi's is delicious

Regina Reed
Staff Writer

Unless you happen to be Patrick Star and literally live underneath a rock, odds are you've heard of the gluten free phenomenon sweeping the nation—nay, the world—and likely have seen “gluten-free” labels at the grocery store or on restaurant menus. Perhaps you read that sentence and scoffed as you took a bite of your daily loaf of French bread.

“Yeah, I've heard of it,” you say as you add nine cups of high-gluten flour to your mixer to make homemade cinnamon rolls.

“What a ludicrous notion to cut out gluten—gluten is delicious!”

While I absolutely agree about the delicious nature of gluten-filled products, I am one of the unfortunate souls who cannot eat it, for fear of becoming extremely ill. Eating completely gluten-free proves to be rather difficult. However, since living in “the big city,” my gluten free diet has become increasingly fabulous!

Before moving to the Olympia area seven months ago, I came from a small, dusty town in southeastern Colorado. As someone with Celiac Disease, the closest thing I could get to a gluten free menu in my hometown was asking for a bun-free McDouble. Oh, how my life has changed since then. While I could

rant and rave about the numerous restaurants I have discovered here with delicious gluten-free options, I would like to focus on my favorite of all: Meconi's Italian Subs.

There are plenty of restaurants with gluten free bread or buns and I have

is soft and squishy, and doesn't fall apart when the wind blows. While I could eat an entire loaf with a few squirts of spray butter, the ingredients placed between the bread make an absolutely delicious sandwich. I've had almost every sandwich op-

customers devouring scrumptious subs or ordering them to go. The consensus is that Meconi's is delicious.

There isn't a whole lot one can say about a sandwich shop, but Meconi's definitely does sandwiching right. The bread is fresh baked, and the meats, cheeses, and veggies are excellent. The atmosphere is quaint and cheery, and of course, even gluten free individuals can eat a sandwich there.

Going to school at Saint Martin's and living close to the Hawks Prairie Meconi's location has resulted in my eating a lot of sandwiches in my seven months here. I've been making up for all the years I had to eat salads at sandwich shops in small town Colorado. With its four locations and frequent business, I sense that Meconi's has already established a well-known, positive status with its communities.

My advice is this: if you want delicious gluten-free bread, go to Meconi's! If everything I have said is old news to you and you already know how good Meconi's is, feel grateful to have access to such a wonderful restaurant and go get another sandwich tomorrow. If you have never eaten at Meconi's, get on over there and try it out. Basically, whoever you are, just go eat a sandwich at Meconi's. You won't regret it!



Meconi's offers gluten free bread at its four locations in Tumwater, Lacey, downtown Olympia and Hawks Prairie.

favorite brands of gluten-free sliced bread I buy at the store. But the first time I ate a gluten-free sub from Meconi's, I was in awe. It tasted like actual bread! This sounds like a crazy statement to those who eat bread every day, but when banned from the joys of normal bread, one soon comes to appreciate the art of bread making. Meconi's has this art down. Their gluten-free bread

tion on my beloved bread and have never been dissatisfied.

Of course, gluten eaters will be satisfied at Meconi's as well. I have taken my husband and both our families to the sub shop and all have been impressed with their own meals, as well as rejoicing with me about my own delightful sandwich. Each time I eat at Meconi's, which is quite often, there are other happy

Beloved screen icon Alan Rickman dies

Sabrina White
Section Editor

In a month that saw the loss of many great, talented people, the acting community mourns the loss of an icon. Award-winning English actor and director Alan Rickman passed away on Jan. 14 from pancreatic cancer. The actor was most widely recognized for his role as Professor Snape in the beloved “Harry Potter” movie series. Each of his film roles captured the hearts of viewers, leaving lasting impressions and earning him worldwide acclaim.

Rickman was born in 1946 into a working class family in Acton, London. At the age of eight, Rickman's father died, leaving his mother to raise him and his three sisters alone. At a young age Rickman excelled at the arts, enjoying activities like watercolor painting and calligraphy. His involvement in acting and drama began while he attended Latymer Upper School in London.

Following Latymer, he enrolled in the Chelsea College of Art and Design and then the Royal College of Art. Rickman originally wanted to pursue a career in studio design, but later changed his mind. After

opening a design studio with several friends and completing a few years of successful business, Rickman decided to pursue acting professionally, auditioning at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Rickman studied at the Royal Academy from 1972 until 1974. His studies emphasized Shakespeare's work, leading to membership in the respected Royal Shakespeare Com-

Barchester novels as the reverend Obadiah Slope.

Rickman played a wide variety of characters, including the dark and mysterious Severus Snape in the “Harry Potter” series of films, the German terrorist Hans Gruber in “Die Hard,” the romantic lead Colonel Brandon in “Sense and Sensibility” and the comedic Sir Alexander Dane in “Galaxy Quest.” Rickman did not like being cast as a villain, but many of his notable roles include villainous or mysterious characters. Rickman has also lent his unique voice to many animated characters, such as the caterpillar Absolem in “Alice in Wonderland”

and the soon to be released “Alice through the Looking Glass”.

Rickman received many awards during his acting career. The first of which was a Tony Award for his role as Vicomte de Valmont in the Broadway show “Les Liaisons Dangereuses.” His other awards include a BAFTA for his role as the Sheriff of Nottingham in “Robin Hood Prince of Thieves,” a Golden Globe, an Emmy, and a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) award for his

role in “Rasputin: Dark Servant of Desinity.” He has been nominated for multiple Golden Globe, Tony, SAG and Emmy awards, and many other prestigious awards during his career.

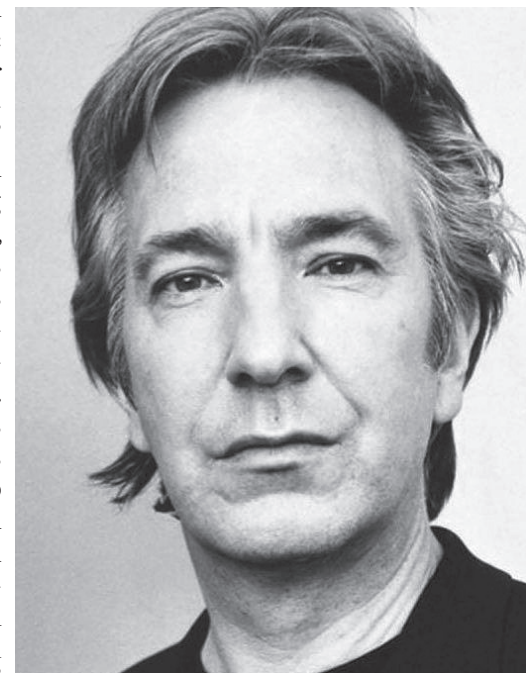
Rickman was an avid supporter of several charity organizations, including Saving Faces, which focuses on the prevention and treatment of facial and oral diseases and disorders. He was a member of the Labor Party and honorary president of the International Performers Aid Trust, an organization that works with artists in poverty.

Rickman was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 after suffering a stroke. He kept

the diagnoses private, only telling his closest family members and friends. Many of his friends did not know he had cancer, and his passing in January was a shock to friends and fans alike. Rickman's passing marks the loss of a very talented and beloved actor, and an icon of film, theatre, and television.



Alan Rickman in his role as Professor Severus Snape.



Photos retrieved from creative commons

Megan Miller seeks to lead her team to success

Brittany Orlosky
Staff Writer

Senior Megan Miller has helped the Saints softball team start out with a 9-1 record, one of the best starts for the Saints in softball history.

"We are off to a great start, won 9 of our 10 games, working well as a team and understanding what it takes to be successful. The underclassmen are picking up on the culture of the team. We are really excited for the rest of season and starting conference," said Miller.

This is Miller's final year at SMU. She came to know about the softball program through former high school teammates who had played here in the past.

"I knew I wanted to play college softball and I heard good things about the program and it was close to home, so it seemed like the perfect fit," she said.

As one of two seniors, Miller is looking to develop her leadership

skills this year.

"My goals are to try and be the best leader to the team, enjoy the season and have fun, take it one day and game at a time. With the role I have, I have to come out ready to play every day," said Miller.

"My role is a little different this year in the leadership aspect. Being a senior, I'm almost in charge of the culture of the team and you have a lot of people looking up to you, but you're counting on a lot of your teammates as well. You already know what to expect coming in as a senior and try to help everyone going with goals and staying on track and being successful and to be there for anyone with any situation."

Miller has played third base since her freshman year and has improved over those four years.

"I have grown really comfortable doing it and have always enjoyed playing infield. I enjoy the rush, the hot corner, and getting some hard hits," she said.

Miller's younger sister Paige

joined the team last year.

"Paige and I have always done a lot together. Softball has always been a big part of our family. When she decided to commit, our whole family was excited to be able to watch us play together," Miller said.

Miller said the two have been able to find a balance between their relationship as siblings and as teammates.

"It's hard to set aside a sister relationship, but you learn a lot about each other and learn to play with each other in college. But it has been so much fun for us so far."

It has been

a transition for Miller going from freshman year to senior year, but she has been able to overcome the obstacles.

"I have come a long way since my freshman year. You come in like a deer in headlights, not knowing what to expect. The longer you're in the program, the more things become natural and the more you know what it takes to be successful."



Miller stands ready in the in-field.

Photo courtesy of Megan Miller

Game time with God

Brooke Rickard
Staff Writer

The Athletes in Action's mission statement reads, "to help sports-minded people think and live at the intersection of sport and christianity."

That is the main purpose of one of Saint Martin's University's newest clubs, Athletes in Action (AIA), a club that has been recognized across the nation since 1966.

Senior soccer player Abby McFaul was compelled to approach the Associated Students of Saint Martin's University (ASSMU) with a proposal for AIA to become an official Saint Martin's club this past semester.

With head track coach Jim Brewer stepping in as the club's faculty advisor, McFaul sought help from fellow teammates Kelli Bannerman and Brittany Orlosky, as well as Torin Dolley, SMU baseball player, to

serve as her leadership assistants. Together, the four have recruited about 30 student athletes to come together and study the Bible.

AIA holds weekly gatherings for Bible study, where leaders choose a verse from a book in the Bible and dive into dissecting the message and figuring out how it applies to athletes. Some of the gatherings have focused on what Jesus thinks of failure, his expectations both on and off the field and, how to connect with their faith while preparing for and throughout competition.

Club members also hear from guest speakers and participate in group activities like dodgeball, spike-ball and movie nights. Additionally, AIA attended a weekend retreat in Bellevue with athletes from the University of Washington, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, and Northwest University.

"As a group, we try to find a good balance of growing closer to him (God) during our walk of faith, while also being able to have a night to get away from homework and stress and go head-to-head with our competitive tendencies," said McFaul.

On Feb. 8, AIA had the privilege of listening to former Seahawks player Charly Martin, and former Washington State University football player Collin Henderson. Martin and Henderson shared their journey of faith as well as the knowledge they have gained and the blessings they have had



Student athletes after a movie at the theater.

Photos courtesy of Brooke Rickard

while strengthening their relationships with God.

"As an athlete, I put too much weight on what other people thought of me. We all do. What we have to remember is that the first and most important key to success is to get right with God. We have to rely on Him as our foundation," said Henderson.

"Faith is a constant struggle. We have to make the time to hear His word and apply it to ourselves. The best way to work through your struggles is to look at who you surround yourself with because they will be the ones to help you build yourself up through Christ," said Martin.

AIA is committed to gaining an understanding of God's word. Weekly meetings and enlightening activities are transforming student athletes from many of SMU's sports teams. But AIA's vision does

not stop there.

"The big event at the end of the year that we have been working up to is the Ultimate Training Camp in Colorado," said McFaul.

She and Bannerman attended the camp last summer, which focused on teaching five principles to apply during competition. At the conclusion of the camp, student athletes are challenged to participate in a 20-hour competition, which tests them physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Though AIA is designed uniquely for student-athletes, they welcome anyone wanting to learn more about God or to strengthen their faith. Meetings are held every Monday night at 8 p.m. in the TUB.



Athletes in Action pose after a game of spike-ball.

Shannon Porter: Running superstar

Brittany Orlosky
Staff Writer

Shannon Porter has only been at Saint Martin's for two years, but she has already broken her own track and field records multiple times. Originally from Brush Prairie, Wash., Porter ran one season of cross country at Boise State in 2009. She then left Boise State, transferring to Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore., where she studied and ran track for two years.

"I was looking at continuing my education after working full time and wanted to finish my degree. Coach (Jim) Brewer called me while I was working on my AA in

Ontario and recruited me. My old coach from Treasure Valley had contacted him and it was the perfect fit because I was looking for a small D-II school," said Porter.

Porter's path to Saint Martin's is different than most student athletes, since this is the third college she has attended.

"It's a little confusing, I'm technically almost done with my sophomore year, I have two years of cross country left, and for track & field, three years of indoor because I started out at a D-I school," said Porter.

Specifically a 10-kilometer runner, Porter believes she was genetically built for long distance running.

"My mom is a marathoner and didn't start running until she was 40. Even though it was later in life, she had an amazing career, she won the Portland Marathon and qualified for Olympic Trials. I look up to her a lot; she is definitely my role model. It's great coming from a running family because I can call my parents and they understand my workouts and understand the numbers."

Since Porter was used to long distance

running, it took her a while to re-acclimate to training for faster paced meets.

"Coach Brewer knew that going into my first season was an adjustment. It wasn't fun doing speed workouts after not doing them for so long, more tempo runs rather than track stuff here. My first indoor season was rough but I was able to figure out what SMU was like and what they were doing here," she said.

Porter's first outdoor season as a Saint proved to be the best season she has had in her career.

"I owe it to Brewer and my teammates. My favorite thing about 'Brew' is that he is really good about knowing when to push an athlete and backing off. He checks in on us and asks how we're feeling."

Porter has broken many records during her time at SMU. She has already broken records in the 3,000 meters and 5,000 meters just this year, records which she herself previously set.

This year, Porter is looking to do things differently.

"My biggest shift this year has progressed because I am learning how to focus on mileage and listening to how my body feels. It's almost



Porter leads the pack.



Shannon Porter dead-locked with SPU runner Anna Patti.

Women's Soccer Players Named to NSCAA Scholar All-West

Patrick Burns
Staff Writer

Sara Massee and Taylor Gersch of the women's soccer team were named members of the National Soccer Coaches Associate of America All West Region team. The two players were awarded for their impressive GPAs during the season. Gersch held a 4.0 GPA, while Massee had a 3.94 GPA. The players were also named to the Great

This was the first time that Massee has been named to the GNAC All-Academic list. She did not play much of the 2015 soccer season because of an injury, but she made her impact off the field by getting astounding grades. She will look to repeat this performance next year as well as helping her team to the GNAC tournament next year. She will be an important member of the team next season as a senior.

This award is special because it shows the commitment that these athletes put into both their academics and on the field. Many fans really only see the work that gets put in on the field during a game day, where it is on display. However, these academic awards show that these players made time for what was important to them and worked hard to earn high GPAs, too.



Taylor Gersch heads the ball.

Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) All-Academic list.

Gersch held the highest GPA out of any women's soccer player in the entire GNAC and this is her second time being named to the GNAC All-Academic list. This award is an honor for both players who clearly take their academics and athletics seriously.

She was humbled by the award, stating "This award was a great honor, as I was surprised to have been recognized for both my academic and athletic achievements."



Sara Massee controls the ball.

Floorball: Intramural's newest sport

Brooke Rickard
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's University Intramurals are heating up with the addition of a new sport, floorball.

"Other schools have different sports, or more sports, and people were asking about having different sports so we were looking into it," said Shannon Ishikawa, one of the Intramural Coordinators.

"David Crawford, director of recreation services, suggested multiple sports and floorball was one of them," she added.

Floorball, a sport very similar to floor hockey, was first conceived during the early 1970s in Gothenburg, Sweden and has been popularized all over Europe since. International play has grown more popular thanks to the International Floorball Federation (IFF). Some countries that have teams associated with the federation are Australia, Japan, Singapore, Canada, and the U.S. There are two big, annual events: the Euro

Floorball Cup and the World Floorball Championships.

There are five field players and a goalkeeper on each team. A floorball game is called a "match," played in three twenty-minute periods with ten-minute intermissions in between periods. During intermission, teams change ends, much like how volleyball teams switch ends in between sets. Matches are played indoors on a rink ranging from 18 to 20 meters wide and 36 to 40 meters long. The rinks are usually enclosed with boards.

Each player has a long stick similar to the ones used in hockey and a plastic ball with holes, much like the wiffle balls used for batting practice by baseball and softball players.

Scoring is simple. If a team shoots the ball into the other team's goal they receive a point. If the game ends in a tie, ten-minutes of extra time is put on the clock. If the game is still tied after ten minutes, the team to score first will be the winner.

On Feb. 12, the Charneski Recreation Center hosted a Floorball Night where students learned these rules and tried their hand on the court before the start of the Intramural season on March 15. Sign-ups will end on March 8.



Professional floorball players

The Writing Center: A place where all students can work and learn

Victor Ieronymides
Staff Writer

Saint Martin’s University provides students with different resources to help them succeed. One of these resources is the Learning and Writing Center, which is located in the lower level of the school’s library. Due to its location, most students around campus do not find the Writing Center until they enter their junior and senior year of college. In an attempt to find out more about the Writing Center itself and the experiences of a current member of the peer reading team, The Belltower interviewed James Malloy, a peer reader at the Writing Center.

Even though Malloy is a senior, he has only been working at the Writing Center for the past semester, but wished he had known about it earlier. Just like Malloy, there are numerous incoming first-year students every year at Saint Martin’s that are not aware of the benefits of the Writing Center. As soon as he found out anyone could apply for a position at the Writing Center, regardless of their major, Malloy applied and was offered a job to help other students in need.

As an engineering major, Malloy is not required to write much for his classes and therefore finds his position as a peer reader at the Writing

Center extremely helpful as it helps keep his writing skills up-to-date, due to the constant exposure to papers from business majors, English majors and psychology majors he receives every day, among others.

Due to the fact that many of the peer readers happen to be seniors at the Writing Center, Malloy added, the Writing Center is currently looking to hire new students.

Malloy detailed some of what the job entails, explaining that peer readers participate in weekly Monday training meetings where they go through various possible scenarios

that could take place when helping a student with a paper. The meetings are part of the job, and although they are designed to improve peer readers’ contribution to the students’ papers and ideas, it also prepares them for the future, as it offers a sense of professionalism.

In addition, when asked one thing he learned from these Monday meetings, Malloy added, “You can never tell a student that he is wrong, but strongly suggest something different, especially when the student’s paper involves a very controversial topic. In other words, you want to

be objective.”

The Writing Center requires each student to be able to bring a different point of view, or a different set of eyes that will be able to look at a student’s paper to help them improve something they might have missed.

“Something students are not aware of is that you do not need to be an expert in English in order to work for the Writing Center,” Malloy continued.

Anyone interested who thinks that their skills with writing in their own field can help students with their papers can fill out an application.

“Students use the Writing Center for different reasons. Students sometimes come to brainstorm ideas, make sure their paper is free of grammatical errors, or simply elevate the entire paper. Therefore, sessions may vary according to what the student is looking for,” said Malloy.

Malloy believes the Writing Center’s primary purpose is to make a personal connection with each student in order to understand what their goals are and simply help guide them to achieve their own academic goals.

Applications for the peer reading positions will be sent out in March.



The Writing Center is located on the lower level of the O’Grady Library.

Experience, from cover

During the last trip, students took an overnight train to the far north, near the Artic Circle, and hiked across the artc terrain. They also visited an arctic animal park and the world famous Arktikum Museum and Rovaniemi. For the current trip,

Goings and Price have planned to split time between cities and the countryside. Activities will include another hike in arctic terrain, experiencing the famous Finnish natural saunas, sightseeing and kayaking at some of Finland’s 180,000 lakes, and traveling along the Norwegian Sea to Bergen, which is a United Nations World Heritage City. Students will also travel by ship to the famous fjord Sognefjord.

Goings and Price want to take their arctic hike even farther than the previous trip, travelling

closer to the Arctic Circle.

In Sweden, they are planning to visit Stockholm, “The capital of Scandinavia,” as Goings puts it, where students will visit castles, churches and museums. While in Stockholm, there will also be a day trip to Uppsala, a Viking burial and earthworks site, where students will have the opportunity to learn more about the rich history of the Vikings in Northern Europe. The trip will be immersed in local culture and history and will allow students to experience something completely foreign in a safe, educational and exciting environment.

Students who are interested or would like to learn more are encouraged to speak with Brenda Burns, study abroad coordinator, in the Office of Study Abroad, located in Old Main room 427. Students with concerns about finances or scholarships can speak with Burns about opportunities available. There are many scholarships and options available to reduce costs for those who wish to go abroad. Students can also contact Goings, agoings@smartin.edu and Price, dprice@smartin.edu for more information.



SMU students hold up a school flag on the 2015 Nordic Study abroad trip.



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Encounters, from cover

Robertson did not hesitate to tell us that her change of perspective “gave her faith and thus transformed her life,” as she did not know that people could have so little in terms of materialistic goods, yet love so much without being concerned about cultural or religious differences.

In fact, when she was about to rent a house from a Muslim woman in Tanzania, Robertson said that she felt obligated to let the lady know about her Christian faith. In response, the lady rhetorically asked, “Don’t you praise God? Then we praise the same God.” Robertson explained that as people, we are all trying to “climb the same mountain.” The only difference between Christians and Muslims in this case is that we are climbing the mountain from a different side.

“Muslims are not the enemy,” emphasized Robertson.

Marsha Grant, Ph.D., a visiting Woodrow Wilson fellow, was the last to talk about her experience with Islam and how different the culture can be depending on the country. Grant focused mostly on Saudi Arabia by emphasizing the importance of the culture’s five-time prayer.

“The Saudis were so committed to their culture, religion and in general their Islamic beliefs that no matter

what people are doing at that moment of the day, if it’s time to pray, the people will prioritize their prayer before anything else,” said Grant.

The event emphasized the need for

people of all cultures to learn about different cultures and appreciate the uniqueness of each. The next Year of Faith event, Playback Theater Faith Stories, will take place on Friday, March 18 in the Cebula Engineering Building from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Women in S.T.E.M. careers: Naira Hovakimyan

Cleo Pineda
Staff Writer

Naira Hovakimyan, professor of mechanical science and engineering at the University of Illinois, received the Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award during the Women in Engineering 2015 Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

Hovakimyan was born and raised in Armenia, one of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union. Given Armenian culture’s esteem for education, Hovakimyan’s family made sure to prioritize academics in their household. Hovakimyan remembers spending a majority of her time reading books and exploring science.

After completing her master’s degree in theoretical mechanics and applied mathematics at Yeveran State University, she moved to Moscow in 1988 to pursue her doctorate studies. Hovakimyan worked her way to a degree in physics and mathematics in 1992 from the Russian Academy of Sciences. However, her journey to a major in optimal control and differential games was not an easy journey.

Knowing that her family’s support would inspire only the best work from her, Hovakimyan returned to Armenia to finish her thesis. While Hovakimyan continuously proved her talent in math and physics, much of her educational career was riddled with weariness due to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Armenia seceded from the USSR with no financial foundation, which effected the progress of their economy and led to an increase in unemployment. In the midst of

waiting for her country’s independence, Hovakimyan experienced first-hand the struggles of trying to stay on track with her studies. For five years, Hovakimyan and her family lived without electricity or any other source of energy in their home.

Not only did she have to rely on oil lamps and candles to light her nights of studying, but she also had to survive with very limited academic resources. There were no libraries around with updated journals, let alone internet access to acquire new information. The persistent and passionate doctoral student dedicated herself to beating the odds and achieved a Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst scholarship through the German embassy in Armenia, working for a year at the University of Stuttgart after being granted the scholarship.

In 1994, Hovakimyan moved to Europe in hopes of finally establishing herself. With the time she spent living in Armenia, she lost a lot of opportunities to pick-up on the rest of the world’s technological advancements. For a decade, Hovakimyan filling the gaps in her education and finding her own place in her desired profession. Throughout this time, she realized that she wanted a career in the western hemisphere.

After fully committing herself to this goal, Hovakimyan’s successes began to take her life by storm. She received a post-doctoral degree in France, received an award for best paper by a young author at the VII International Society of Dynamic Game Symposium in Japan and a six-month visiting scientist

opportunity at Georgia Tech to support stability analysis of adaptive flight control systems.

She then applied to a doctorate program in America to gain more experience, but worried about her age in comparison to other applicants. In response to her worries, she continued to look for new ways to go about her professional development. After some time, Virginia Tech awarded her with the honor of being their first female professor in the aerospace and ocean engineering department in their 50 year existence. She was determined to build her own research program,

and was eventually able to work with the NASA Langley Research Center and Air Force office of Scientific Research.

Now, Hovakimyan is a professor at the University of Illinois. She shares her knowledge and gives back to the community by educating the next generation in what she is most passionate about: math and science. Considering all of the challenges that Hovakimyan had to face as a woman and an immigrant working toward a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M) career, she looks to others’ intellects for guidance.

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Questions?

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Favelas: Brazil's unmarketed skyline

Lee Kaplan-Unsoeld
Staff Writer

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the word “favela” is repeated often. With the World Cup having taken place here in 2014, and the Olympics to take place this year, favela, which is often translated to “slum”, is the cause of much consternation to the city’s government. They are trying to create an environment in which tourists feel comfortable coming to the city by creating a positive public image, but the second I stepped into the Santa Marta favela, reality set in.

First, imagine Rio de Janeiro. Do you know it? Think of a coastline of beautiful sandy beaches backed by tall granite mountains covered in tropical vegetation; picture skyscrapers popping up from the

flat areas close to the water, fancy condominiums, expensive restaurants and clean streets, almost like a tropical Manhattan.

Then zoom in past the coastal charm to the steep slopes of Rio’s mountains and put yourself in a narrow maze of stairways and walkways zigzagging through houses jammed together as if they are fighting for footholds on the hillside. Trash is everywhere and people walk with no shoes through walkways that suffer the side effects of sewage running down the hillside in open concrete gutters.

When I told my friends and family that I was going to Rio, I was repeatedly told, “Don’t go into any favelas.”

Well-intending people often repeat this advice and indeed there are many favelas that I am not going to explore. But this advice is often based on a theoretical conception of favelas. Relying on movies like “City of God” and “Elite Squad” that display dramatized versions of real violence that has happened in certain favelas, many people assume that all favelas are just as dangerous.

The reality is that the majority of residents of favelas are honest, hard-working people who have to fight extremely hard to survive. My study abroad group, IES Abroad, went on a walking tour of Santa Marta led by Sheila, owner and operator of the tour company called

Brazilidade, and the only resident of Santa Marta with a master’s degree. Her perspective as a lifetime resident of the favela as well as a socially and politically active advocate of favelas, demystified what a favela is and what life there is really like.

Santa Marta is one of the favelas that the government has targeted with its “Police Pacifying Units” (UPP), a special division of the police created in 2008 to curtail violence and drug dealing in specified favelas. Though there are certainly still drugs in the favela, the only people we saw with guns were four police officers in the middle of the favela, hanging out in a small plaza where Michael Jackson shot the music video for “They Don’t Care About Us.”

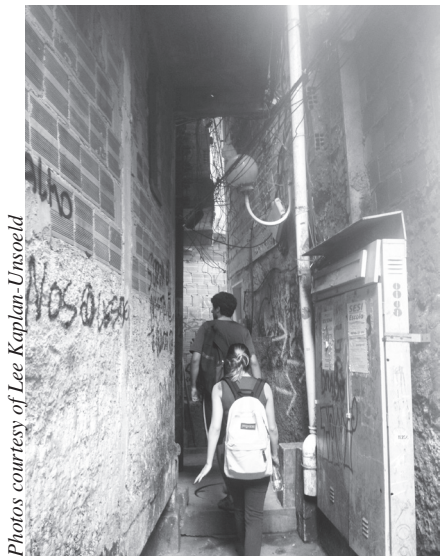
As Sheila explained it, the neighborhood has changed a bit since it was “pacified.” It is a little less violent, primarily because the drug dealers moved to different territory, but many problems have stayed the same. Though the government and private groups have come into the favela to build staircases and paint buildings with bright colors, the



Overview of Rio de Janeiro

reality remains that there is no trash collection system, no sewage, and subpar educational and childcare opportunities.

Favelas are complicated places in the physical sense as well as the socio-political sense. When you get down to a fundamental human sense, however, the situation becomes much clearer: residents of favelas are people like you and me, born into a difficult social position, just trying to survive and get some joy out of life. At the end of our tour, four people from my study abroad group started playing soccer with four young boys from the favela, and the socioeconomic differences became less visible. The eight of them were all just people playing soccer and having fun and those boys from the favela won, 5-3.



Narrow walkways in Santa Marta

Fortresses in Barra da Tijuca

Lee Kaplan-Unsoeld
Staff writer

On the outskirts of the chaos that is Rio de Janeiro lies the wealthy city of Barra da Tijuca. A far cry from the tight, twisting streets of Rio itself, Barra is an area where many people live and commute to Rio every day. I had the pleasure of visiting Barra before even being in Brazil for a week and, needless to say, it was a culture shock within a culture shock. The rampant inequality present in Brazil has vast negative effects on the society as a whole, but in Barra, that inequality has created quite a comfortable existence for the wealthy.

I went to Barra, about an hour and a half from my house by bus, to attend the birthday party of my friend Marina, who lives there with her parents. Downtown Barra has a strip of bars and restaurants that stands out from most places in Rio, not only due to its many options, but also because of the price. A few places are priced like any other restaurant in Rio, but it is clearly an area where people have the money to spend on fancy food.

It is also a place where people can be expected to shop, and Barra has what seems like an infinite number of malls and car dealerships. I was invited by a new friend, Felipe, who I was introduced to by Luisa, Marina’s birthday party host. On the drive there, we passed so many malls that I almost felt like we

had completely left Brazil and entered some sort of sovereign nation of shopping. One mall was even named “New York City Center,” and boasted a 20 or 30 foot Statue of Liberty replica outside.

When we got to Luisa’s neighborhood, our Uber driver greeted the guards at the gate and we rolled into what seemed like a suburb imported from California. Expansive houses with elaborate landscaping sat on either side of the wide lanes with shade trees overhead and at least two cars parked in most driveways. When we arrived at the gate to Luisa’s house, we stepped off the quiet street into a small yard with a swimming pool, hot tub, outdoor kitchen and patio area.

At Luisa’s house, Felipe grabbed his backpack. We said our goodbyes and started toward Leme, where Felipe lives, to grab his shoes and meet up with two of his friends. I thought we were going to take a bus, but Felipe insisted that we take another Uber back, explaining that it wasn’t safe to catch a bus in Barra. I was a little confused, as it seemed that Barra would be safe since it was such a wealthy area, but that was not the case.

When there is such an unequal distribution of wealth, those with wealth have to protect their property from those who are struggling to survive. Hence, in a place like Barra, it is safe if you have a car, but not if you have to use public transportation. Those with cars can leave

their gated communities, drive to work, or a restaurant, or mall, leave their car parked in a guarded area, then drive back home to their gates again.

Even with the luxury shopping malls, car dealerships, fancy houses and condos, people who have to use public transportation because they don’t own a car are less safe. When standing at a bus stop at night, unlike more densely populated areas of Rio, there is nobody walking around. You are all alone and, should a car pull up and stop, there is nowhere for you to run to safety if they decide to rob you. How often does it happen? I don’t have statistics, but it happens enough for Felipe to spend \$10 on an Uber.

Visiting Barra was a fun time, and I’m sure I’ll be back someday soon,

but it was also an interesting lesson in Brazilian diversity. There are slums in Rio and there are mansions in Rio and these two realities often compete for attention. But there is also a wide variety of other realities, just like we have in the United States.

The growing inequality that our respective societies have created the need for more fences, more gates, more security guards and more precautions, so that those from the slums can’t hurt the people who live in “fortresses.” There has to be a better way to achieve security, because even after all those fences and gates and guards, a guy like me still can’t catch a bus at night in Barra without worrying about getting robbed.



Barra da Tijuca from above

Events, plans, and funding are discussed at ASSMU meetings

Michael Overfield
Staff Writer

The weekly Associated Students of Saint Martin's University (ASSMU) meeting took place on Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. in the Trautman Student Union Building (TUB). The student council gave their weekly reports and allowed for students to ask questions or make requests. The meeting began with words of inspiration from a member on the student council.

"Never underestimate your opponent," "take it outside," and "be nice," were the words of inspiration for the meeting spoken by the Senator of Resident Students Elizabeth Heying.

Following this, the student council members gave their reports. One report given by the student council president, Alyssa Melder, involved candidates for next year's student council.

The meeting included a brief discussion on the Procession of the Species event. This event is a parade

that features people dressed as animals. The resident assistants, in addition to other students, have begun building a float for the parade. This parade involves no motor vehicles and many costumes are made with recycled or biodegradable materials.

Additionally, a concern about "tailgating" was raised. The word "tailgating" in this sense does not mean a party before a football game. Instead, it refers to people gaining access to the residence halls. Students are advised to be cautious about who they let into the residence halls.

The next ASSMU meeting was held at the same time on Feb. 11. Following the words of inspiration which were presented by senator of business Skylar Nelson, Melder reported that the tennis building, which was in the process of being built, needed to be designed to meet the city standards and that a plan was in place to eventually finish the third floor of Cebula Hall.

ASSMU is looking for feedback

to use in restructuring the senate. During the open forum session, a proposition to build bicycle storage on campus was introduced by a student whose bicycle seat was stolen. Many of the students present agreed that it sounded like a good idea; however, more planning is required before this idea can be acted upon.

The unfinished business that was initially mentioned during the meeting on Feb. 4 was the topic of funding the Psychology Club's trip to attend the annual convention of the Western Psychological Association. Originally, eight students would go to Long Beach, Calif. with an advisor to present; however, two more students who would be assistant presenters were added to the list of participants. The original funding requested was just over four thousand dollars; after two more students were added, the requested funding went up by a few hundred dollars. The funding for the Psychology Club to send ten students and one advisor to the event was approved and the topic of the meeting

moved on to new business.

The new business was funding for the International Club. The club requested funding for its annual retreat. Thirty students and three staff are planning to go to Black Lake Bible Camp, not far from Saint Martin's University. The International club requested \$3,796 for the trip which was approved during the meeting.

If you wish to participate in ASSMU meetings or would like to bring up a topic or idea, weekly meetings take place on Thursdays at 11 a.m. in the TUB.

Those who are interested in student council should look for applications on the last day of February.

Additionally, Nelson announced that Sigma Beta Delta, a business honor society, has an event at the Tumwater Kids Closet on Feb. 27. Students who want to volunteer their time can help set up. In addition, students can help out at the event by assisting children to pick out clothes for themselves.

Celebrating Saint Patrick's Day

Connie Jensen
Staff Writer

March 17 is just around the corner and thousands across the globe will be donning their best green apparel in honor of Saint Patrick's Day, a celebration that has become synonymous with corned beef, shamrocks, leprechauns, and luck. But how did all of this begin? And just who is St. Patrick anyway? The answers to these questions may surprise you.

The life of St. Patrick did not actually begin in Ireland as you might expect. He was born in fifth century Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire. When he was 16-years-old, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and imprisoned for six years. Eventually he converted to Christianity and later returned to Ireland to work as a missionary. He died on March 17, 461 and was later declared the patron saint of Ireland.

Ironically, the traditional color associated with Saint Patrick is blue—not green.

It was not until the eighteenth century that people began to wear shamrocks on March 17 as an emblem of Irish-Christian pride.

The idea of wearing shamrocks came from the popular story that St. Patrick had used a shamrock to

explain the holy trinity. Interestingly enough, shamrocks do not actually exist. In fact, the plants typically associated with shamrocks are wood sorrel, and white and yellow clover.

Eventually, this tradition of wearing a green shamrock on Saint Patrick's day translated into wearing green clothing; a tradition still present today.

As for luck, Marion R. Casey, Ph.D., associate professor of the Glucksman Ireland House of New York University states, "There's no reason to associate the Irish with luck or any of their symbols with luck."

As it turns out, luck did not become associated with the Irish until the early twentieth century when it became a popular greeting card theme.

Casey explains, "As it gets commercialized it gets sanitized of all religious connotation and it becomes more—'I'm sending you this card for good luck.'"



People dress up in honor of St. Patrick's Day

Leprechauns, on the other hand, have a more sinister Saint Patrick's Day. Traditionally, leprechauns were a part of early Celtic folklore and were considered to be spirits of the natural world. Their present day conception began to emerge in the 1840s, when thousands of Irish immigrants poured into the U.S. to escape the potato famine. These

immigrants often wore tattered clothing. Political cartoonists who opposed the Irish depicted the immigrants as pugnosed wearing patched clothing and often having a raised fist. This stereotyped image of the Irish people developed into the iconic image

of the fun-loving, frivolous leprechaun of today.

As for corned beef and cabbage, this tradition did not begin in Ireland, where boiled bacon is the traditional Saint Patrick's Day dish. As it turns out, corned beef and cabbage is an Irish-American meal, stemming from the immigration that took place in the nineteenth century. Poor immigrants could not afford to eat meat every day. When they did, they purchased the cheapest cut of meat, brisket, and the cheapest vegetable, cabbage, to pair with it. This unique dish later became associated with Saint Patrick's Day as an American tradition.

So now, when you sport your best green gear during this Saint Patrick's Day, you can do so knowing that you are taking part in a centuries old tradition of honoring Irish heritage.



The Chicago river is dyed green on St. Patrick's Day.

Preparing for a life abroad in Japan

Blake Cloward
Staff Writer

Last summer I attended Saint Martin's Japan Cultural Exchange Tour (JCET). This was one of the most influential experiences of my life. I visited many amazing places all over the country with a great group of three other SMU students and two faculty members. I did not know the other group members very well prior to the trip, but after ten days together we were all quite good friends. After riding trains, sharing meals, and wandering the streets of downtown Tokyo late at night, I began to grow fond of my new friends and the culture I had been immersed in. I highly recommend anyone who is wanting to travel to attend JCET. It was an amazing cultural experience and very affordable.

After returning to Lacey, I quickly began to miss all that I experienced

during JCET. I missed the everyday life, my generous host families and especially the delicious food. Almost everything that I ate tasted great – and I ate some strange food. Most of all, I missed the people. Everybody was extremely kind, generous and more than helpful. My host families went out of their way to make sure I was completely satisfied and well taken care of. Even people who I would pass by on the streets showed great kindness.

I greatly wished to return to Japan and therefore I decided to study abroad during the spring 2016 semester. I will be taking Japanese language and culture courses, along with other classes to satisfy general credits. I also plan on joining a music club so that I can continue practicing piano and guitar. After studying abroad, I plan to graduate in spring 2017 with a bachelor's of



Stone statues at a Shinto shrine

science in mechanical engineering and then a master's of mechanical engineering the following year.

There are many things I need to prepare for before embarking on my journey—little things like making sure I have appropriate and adequate clothing to match a much different climate than what I've been accustomed to in Washington. I also have to get an international debit card and phone service. Most importantly, I am mentally preparing myself. I have been to many different places around the world including Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean islands, the Netherlands, Belgium and Japan, but the longest I have been in a different country has only been a few weeks. I will be in Japan for about four months which is substantially longer than

anywhere I have been before. I am nervous, but also excited.

I was very lucky to have met many Japanese International students at SMU who have helped me tremendously in preparing to study abroad. I spent a lot of time with them last semester which helped me learn to communicate in both Japanese and English. My Japanese language skills still need much improvement but I have a great head start due to the help from my friends.

I leave for Japan in about a month and I will be gone until August. I have been practicing reading, writing and speaking everyday so that I will have the best experience while abroad. I'm counting down the days until I leave and I am so excited to return to Japan!



Traditional Japanese food

Barrio, from cover

The winner of the contest was chosen by process of elimination.

Music seemed the star of the night as SMU Moves performed a dance montage preceding the night's final event: musical entertainment by Melvin Gutierrez and Jeremy Passion.

The highlight of the night was the music provided by these two guest singers from San Francisco. Gutierrez began with ukulele covers of songs from artists such as Bob Marley, Justin Bieber and Ed Sheeran. As custom for the crowd that evening, everyone sang along to the

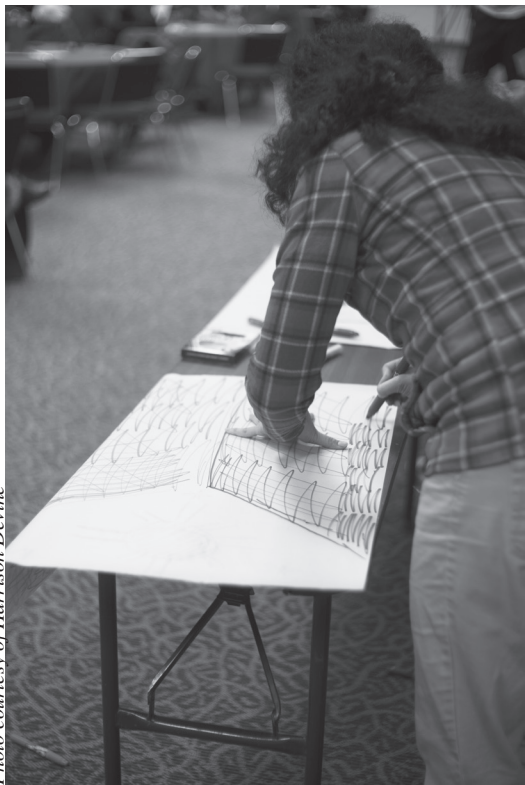
well-known songs Gutierrez sang. This was Gutierrez's third consecutive year performing for SMU Barrio and he was definitely a crowd favorite.

Following Gutierrez, many from the crowd moved from their tables to sit directly in front of the stage as Passion performed his own songs. His set included a tribute to his mother, called "32," and a single he is releasing next week called "All Smiles." He ended the night with his popular song "Lemonade."

The Barrio Fiesta brought many people together. Students gathered for delicious food, hilarious entertainment and beautiful music. The laughter of people enjoying themselves was only outdone by the amount of singing. Before his set, Passion said he hoped to "find common ground through music."

The Filipino Heritage Club brought a large group of people together through the same sentiment. All who attended found common ground through Filipino food, games and music.

Find Melvin Gutierrez's music on youtube.com/melvinsings, or follow him in Instagram at @melvinsings. Connect with Jeremy Passion by visiting his website, jeremypassion.com, where you can access his music and social media accounts.



Student making a Filipino flag.

Check out
our website!
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Unity in diversity

Boniface V. Lazzari, O.S.B
Guest Writer

During the years I was doing theological studies at Comillas in Madrid, we usually had classes from nine in the morning until one in the afternoon, except for a different schedule on Wednesdays. At close to 11 a.m. we enjoyed a 20 minute break, during which time we'd either head downstairs for some coffee and a sandwich or, in good weather, go for a brisk walk on the campus.

After I'd been at Comillas for about three weeks, a classmate and I were walking during the morning break. We were discussing our class by Professor José Ramón García-Murga titled, "The Mystery of God." At one point in the conversation, my classmate said to me: "Boni, now I know what the Benedictine idea of God is."

I was somewhat surprised, as I'd been a Benedictine for some time by then and I wasn't sure if I knew what the Benedictine idea of God was. So, I inquired how she'd discovered that. She said that she'd been watching me and my way of being since the beginning of the

semester several weeks before. I hastened to let her know that I didn't really think that I could be used as a model for all Benedictines and for the Benedictine way of approaching life, though I think I left her unconvinced.

Though we share a great commonality, we Benedictines are also very diverse—as is any group of people, such as the members of a carpenters' union, the players on a sports team or a group of friends. We need to make an effort not to box people in, to not put them in a "box" because they have a particular characteristic. When I lived in Mexico, an older classmate had a dinner for the entire class. She told me in advance that she was serving my favorite food: T-bone steaks from her ranch in Northern Mexico. As I was American, of course.

Recently, a friend was volunteering at a place that serves food to the homeless or destitute. He's an academic, with a master's degree or two. He'd signed up for the volunteer work online, and so was surprised when the person in charge (even after learning that he'd signed up online) kept insisting that he sign a paper form. It was finally

explained to my friend that he'd need the hard copy for his (non-existent) parole officer. My friend was being "boxed in" by the kitchen manager because of the multitude of tattoos that adorn his entire body.

It can be easy for us to "box in" others, and also not to recognize the diversity that usually exists even in a seemingly homogenous group of people. The only Saint Martin's monk with visible tattoos who was here during my time acquired them when in the U.S. Navy. We do have two present day monks who are veterans of military service. One in the regular Army and another in the Marine Corps. One of my confreres is an expert in martial arts. The arts have a long tradition in Benedictine monasteries and our present community includes several who are artistically gifted in diverse fields. We are home to authors of books of philosophy, poetry and meditation; many of us have written our dissertations. Some of us are avid followers of sports: campus teams, local teams and national teams. Some of us are spectators at sporting events and some of us are participants. We engage in the culinary arts, to a greater and to a lesser degree. Some

of us are very caught up in the electronic age; some of us less so. Once when I was chairing a meeting of an off campus group I belonged to, I was asked by someone who knew little about Benedictines if I didn't have a computer because of something in the Rule of Benedict or some other Benedictine regulation. I answered in the negative.

The monks of Saint Martin's are a very diverse group. The "glue" that holds us together is that we all seek God in community here at the Abbey. We gather together for public prayer four times each day, and each monk has his own prayer time and time for spiritual reading. We share things in common: prayer time, worldly goods, meal and recreation times and our individual talents. We try to respect the diversity of each other, to learn from our differences and not to box each other in. We don't classify someone as "undesirable" because of that person's diversity, his difference. We all seek God, and are striving to be united in our diversity in Him on our search for Him.

Homecoming recalls the fantasy of old Hollywood

Dimin Wen
Staff Writer

On Feb. 5, The Saint Martin's University homecoming was held by Campus Life and Program Specialists.

Deveney Dela Cruz, who supervised and hosted the event said, "This is the big dance event of the year at Saint Martin's."

The theme this year was old Hollywood. The event featured glamorous black, red and gold decorations to show the elegant, and semi-formal party for the night. Semi-formal was chosen for this event because Campus Life did not want to do the same thing as the formal Yule Ball that was held earlier this school year. People who came to this event were able to have fun in a more casual way than at the Yule Ball.

According to Morgan Olson, who was in charge of the event, "We put lots of effort in it and hope people could have fun. We are very excited about this."

The Norman Worthington



Students spent all night on the dance floor.

Conference Center was decorated with tables that were covered in black cloth, and the room was illuminated by red light. The atmosphere gave people's faces a wine red color. While students danced and enjoyed the music, it drew people back into the time of old Hollywood films and movie stars with their glittering

makeup.

Many people took to the dance floor to enjoy the music, while some students gathered around the tables to talk with friends. There was also a photo booth at the event which

students to take pictures with their friends. Everyone seemed to have a smile on their face. Various raffles were held throughout the night, until the crowning of the senior king and queen.

At 10 p.m., Brendan Thomas and Tamara O'Donnell were crowned senior king and queen. They stood up to the

applause of their fellow students. It was an exciting moment not just for the King and Queen, but for everyone who participated in the event.

As an Matt Ramos takes his place on the dance floor.

international student from China, we do not have the concept of homecoming in any of our schools. Our campus life is all about studying most of the time. As I remember, even during school days of celebration when our students had barbecues together, our class master asked us to write a review of the celebration as an assignment for that weekend.

Homecoming might be more popular in high school than in college because students' relationships in college are different than they were in high school. Some of us might think that it is too childish to vote for king and queen or that it doesn't have the same meaning or importance that it once did. College can separate people who used to be close because it is a time when we start our individual lives and can be too busy to be together all the time. Events like homecoming, however, are a good way to allow for a little fun during school.



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Radric Marapao and Astrid Serrano have a rap battle.

Tree cutting on campus

Editor's Note: This email was sent to the Arbor Vitae committee on Feb. 8 by a concerned student.

Dear Arbor Vitae Committee,

In the four years I have been at Saint Martin's, I have seen the following:

1. The cutting of several large healthy beautiful Western red cedars to place a flag pole.
2. Large cutting of the forested area between Saint Martin's and the Department of Ecology, leaving many skid roads that take years to re-vegetate and damaging much of the sprouting growth.
3. The cutting of old maples to the left along Father Meinrad Gaul Drive, for liability reasons.
4. Fifty young healthy fir trees to the right side of Father Gaul Drive cut down, and replaced with a few skimpy oak plants, native to the Midwest.
5. A large logging operation for the materials lab "in the woods" that grows much wider each day.
6. The cutting of the growing sequoia plants between Father Gaul Drive and Old Cebula leaving nice stumps for students to look at when the get out of their cars.
7. The removal of what I believe were three birch trees outside the REC center.
8. The clearing of native undergrowth between the softball field and Parsons, for unknown reasons.
9. The cutting of many Douglas trees for a sidewalk from Baran to the engineering building to decrease someone's walk by possibly 300 feet.

As a civil engineer, I understand the challenges you might face with forestry, but I caution you to think about much of the development that will lead to removing much of Saint Martin's forested areas. Further thinning will lead to a drier undergrowth that, with continued dry summers, will not supply enough water for sprouting young Western Red Cedars. Without water, the survival percentage rate of the cedars will be in the low teens within five years. I fear that returning alumni will someday be able to stand by the entrance at Pacific Avenue and see all the way to College Street through a continual progression of removing, thinning and deforestation.

The main reason I chose to go to this school was because the campus was extremely timbered. I am in no way against development, but I am for smart management of truly forested parts of Saint Martin's that integrates urban development with the forest to produce the least impact. Please take my opinion and many of my student peers' opinions into consideration. Students deserve a voice in managing the landscaping and forestry of Saint Martin's. When this committee formed, it likely did not consider students, the main benefactors, as a primary opinion.

Sincerely,
Nathan Morgan

Travel warning: Mark Driscoll plants a church in Arizona

Travis Munday
Managing Editor

For those of you unfamiliar with Mark Driscoll, I can catch you up. He is the former pastor of Seattle's now defunct Mars Hill Church (which also had a satellite campus in Olympia) who resigned under the weight of a number of self-inflicted controversies. He used church funds in the amount of \$25,000 to buy his book's way on to The New York Times' bestseller list. He has a lengthy history of verbally abusing his staff and church members. He is a classic misogynist who has parlayed that label into a paranoid conspiracy theory about the feminization of men in America. And now, he's rebranding his tattered image and starting a church in Phoenix. It would be funny if it wasn't true.

Since the beginning of his ministry, or lengthy ad campaign as it might more aptly be called, Driscoll has been concerned with one thing and one thing only—his brand.

An article in the Seattle Times from 2014 reported that former Mars Hill staff members who had worked directly with Driscoll "charged that Driscoll referred to himself as 'The Brand' and said

Mars Hill would always be about 'me in the pulpit holding the Bible.' They (former church employees) said he threatened to shred a former pastor's new church 'brick by brick,' and they said he lied about how much he'd known about the book-sales-contract fiasco," refer-



Mark Driscoll preaching to his audience.

ring to the marketing firm hired by the church to inflate Driscoll's book sales.

Driscoll has also been accused multiple times of plagiarizing other Christian books.

While denying some of the claims about his temperament and conceding to claims corroborated by

physical evidence, Driscoll issued his resignation in Oct. 2014. He was like a little kid caught stealing candy, only to feign remorse so he can do it again (this time in Phoenix).

None of this sounds like leadership material. And yet, there are people who still feel loyal to this guy. I don't think his current followers were converted to anything but a cult of personality—converted by a charisma as boisterous and offensive as Driscoll's faux-hawk is embarrassing.

Also, go ahead and give Driscoll's name a quick Google. It won't be hard to find tirades antithetical to the bulk of traditional Christian teaching. If he met the Jesus of the Bible, he would knock his seven fish and two loaves to the ground and stuff him in a locker. Personality-wise, he comes off as a mixed martial arts

coach who also sells musky body spray out of the trunk of his car. Additionally, he has complete disdain for the meek (i.e. the people Jesus encouraged), and I know this from attending Mars Hill for two years at a time when, arguably, he was at the peak of his authoritarian powers.

Driscoll announced the launch of his new church with his wife Grace from his new home in Phoenix earlier this month. I vacillate between being a praying and non-praying man, but I'll definitely be sending some "knee-mail," as the Pat Sajack-style jokes of "Family Circus" have said, up to the Big Guy, hoping all will steer clear of any Driscoll-led churches.

The Seattle Times article also contains several direct quotes from Driscoll, including one making him sound like an evil Ken Kesey when talking about his church's goals.

"There is a pile of dead bodies behind the Mars Hill bus, and by God's grace, it'll be a mountain by the time we're done." Driscoll continues, "You either get on the bus or you get run over by the bus."

Letters to the Editor Policies

Everyone is invited to submit Letters to the Editor in response to previously published material, or about things not in the paper. All Letters to the Editor (LTE) will be responded to either by personal response or in print in The Belltower as space allows.

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1. All letters must be signed by the author to be published. Names can be withheld upon request of the author and at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief (EIC). They must have some credible contact information (email, telephone number and/or address) for notification and verification.
 2. The Belltower reserves the right to edit letters for length and grammar.
 3. Letters of questionable taste will be evaluated by the Editorial Team and in applicable situations will be voted on and handled as the Team sees fit.
 4. Letters of questionable origin will not be published until confirmation of the author has been made.
 5. As time permits, writers of letters will be contacted for confirmation.
 6. The Belltower reserves the right to not publish letters deemed libelous, obscene, in poor taste, or otherwise unfit to print. The EIC will make this final decision upon consultation with the Editorial Team and the Faculty Adviser.
 7. The Belltower reserves the right to print a selected number of LTEs. The EIC makes this decision on a case-by-case basis.

Drones and hoverboards banned, smoking allowed

Taylor Gersch
Staff Writer

If you've checked your Saint Martin's email lately, you have probably received an email explaining a change in the student handbook. New and popular devices such as hoverboards and drones are being banned from the Saint Martin's campus. The email from the Office of Housing and Residence Life explained that there has been scrutiny over these devices regarding fire safety, privacy concerns and pedestrian and traffic safety.

As the email explains, many schools have taken the same actions as there have been many injuries caused by drones and over 30 fires caused by hoverboards. This ban is effective immediately and students are urged to either send home or store these devices elsewhere. As of Feb. 3, these devices have been subject to confiscation and due to fire hazard issues, the hoverboards will not be stored or returned by the Office Housing and Residence Life.

Hoverboards and drones have established a bad reputation in the media due to their hazard. Currently, Saint Martin's is more worried about controlling our possession of drones and hoverboards than focusing on the silent killer lurking on our campus: cigarettes. Saint Martin's does not allow us to own drones and hoverboards on campus,

but they allow us to smoke.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that smoking is currently the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, slowly killing 480,000 people each year. The CDC also reported that smoking costs \$300 billion in health care expenditures and productivity losses every year.

Does it make any logical sense to ban drones and hoverboards, which have accounted for a very small amount of injuries, compared to smoking, which kills hundreds of thousands of people every year? Obviously Saint Martin's priorities are significantly disorganized. Nothing is worse than walking past Harned Hall, on either side of the building, and having to walk through cigarette smoke, inhaling toxins and infecting our bodies. SMU is allowing a silent killer to invade our campus. They choose to ban students from owning hoverboards and drones on campus, but allow students, many of whom are in early adulthood, to smoke on campus.

We talk a lot about consent on campus in many situations. I have never said once that I want to inhale cigarette smoke. Never once have I asked the group of students standing outside of Harned Hall to blow smoke in my face when I walk by. Never once have I said "yes I

want to infect my lungs with your second hand smoke." If there is no consent, why do we allow it? Why is it okay that we can't own simple toys, like a hoverboard or drone, but we can take part in an activity that kills 480,000 people a year and is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States? My suggestion to the Office of Housing and Residence Life and Saint Martin's University as a whole is to focus on banning activities that cause the most harm to individuals. This school teaches us to change and influence the world for the better and challenges us to be smarter and more critical thinkers. I'm calling

upon Saint Martin's to ban smoking and to take on the slightly harder challenge of getting rid of a silent killer rather than taking the easy way out by confiscating toys.



Stations like this are set up around campus to offer students a place to smoke.

Photo courtesy of Taylor Gersch

Cutting and thinning should not be our first option

Dalia Pedro Trujillo
Editor-In-Chief

As a prospective college student in high school, I only had the opportunity to visit Saint Martin's University Campus once before making a commitment to attend. While the people I met here played a key role in my decision to attend SMU, it was the beautiful campus that I fell in love with that cemented my attending this institution. I loved the fact that once on campus, the noisy streets of Interstate 5, College Street and Pacific were blocked off.

In the past year, however, things began to change. As indicated by previous emails from Andrew Moyer, Saint Martin's Abbey director of real estate, our forested areas have been infected with laminated root rot (LRR) and as a result, trees have been cut and will continue to be cut.

"Because of the nature of laminated root rot, affected trees become steadily less capable of taking in water and nutrients as the viable root system shrinks. There is no known cure for laminated root rot, and the loss of root structure leaves the trees far less stable, necessitating their removal before the trees become too hazardous. The Arbor Vitae, therefore, strives to practice a proactive management of the forest and harvests the dead and dying trees while they are still marketable," said Moyer in an email sent out to the school.

I am by no means an expert on

forestry management, nor trees. That being said, if all the trees have limited root rot, I am scared that if we continue to cut them, more trees will be infected. As Moyer has explained, there is no known cure. Laminated root rot can cause various adverse effects, such as undesired reductions in stand densities, by causing high levels of mortality and may limit the species of trees that can grow to a large size on a site.

As Moyer explained in the email, Saint Martin's Abbey is funding the efforts to plant trees that are resistant to laminated root rot. However, it seems that laminated root rot can limit the species of trees that can grow and for various reasons, trees have limited chances of survival.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and Department of the Interior there are various ways to minimize the risk of adverse effects from laminated root rot.

"One approach is to attempt to eliminate the pathogen from the site. This may be accomplished either by removing inoculum from the site or preventing the growth of host tree species until the pathogen has died out...The other strategy, preventing the growth of host tree species until the pathogen dies, limits site occupancy to immune species, such as various hardwoods, for a period of 50 years or more."

More infested areas, however, another approach "involves favoring less susceptible species, or a

mixture of less susceptible and immune species, on sites infected with laminated root rot. This approach does not eliminate the pathogen from the site, but reduces the effects of disease upon the stand. This approach is usually preferred on heavily infested sites, because it is generally cost effective, and maintains conifer cover on the site. Less susceptible or immune species may be planted when a stand is regenerated, or they may be favored during intermediate entries such as thinning and partial cutting."

It seems, based on these two approaches that the Arbor Vitae is going with something similar to the second approach. They are obviously doing what is best for the trees and also trying to make profit from the trees, while they still can. But questions still remain.

How much of our forested areas have laminated root rot? Will we continue to thin and cut trees down as more trees are infected? What are the long term plans for combating the laminated root rot?

The Arbor Vitae Committee approved the planting of Western Red Cedars, a species of tree that less susceptible to the LRR. Red alder trees, on the other hand, are non-susceptible trees to LRR. This species of tree "has been hypothesized to function as a natural biological control of laminated root rot, has most commonly been used in this capacity, because it can quickly occupy the site after being planted, effectively preventing susceptible

conifer species from growing." Maybe we need to consider a solution which includes planting plan a combination of Western Red Cedars and Red Alder trees.

The Arbor Vitae wants to be transparent with the Saint Martin's Community about the thinning of trees which has begun, which as a student concerned about our forested areas I appreciate. But I think it's important for the committee to do more in terms of protecting our forested areas.

We saw them approve the cutting of a large area of trees for the new "Engineering Lab in the Woods." A lab so sustainable it required the cutting of trees to be able to exist. Not only that, but more cutting was done to create a sidewalk from the residence halls to the Cebula Hall. We also have seen the cutting of trees by the Charneski Recreation Center and on Father Gaul Drive this time for liability reasons. While replanting efforts have been underway, there is more than the Arbor Vitae Committee can do. It needs to protect and care for the trees, and look for various ways to make our forest healthy, without relying to on cutting as our first option.

Sources
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/wildlife/decad/landSpecies/Laminated%20root%20rot.html>

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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Barrio
Elections
Food
Knights
Patrick
Tracktown
Wine

Beyonce
Festival
Hollywood
Lacey
Rickman
Virus
Zika

Columbus
Finland
Homecoming
Marijuana
Saint
Vote

H T T R F S C Z K T F E B H M

C O M T U O I E R B T R L C D

P H M R P K O A B M D R F A N

P A I E A L C D Q B J H A M P

I V T P C K R K D G D C W L K

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L S A O I B M F Z S R A Y V F

E O W N R C I I U Q I V E W S

C N O U A N K B N F C I C I P

T N T I L U M V K G K T A N J

I T N A R U J J Q V M S L E U

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S E C N O Y E B S A I N T B F

K N I G H T S G G X M E T O V



Can you find all 7 differences?



CAPITAL

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FESTIVAL

Saturday March 19, 2016

12:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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